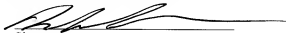


**PATENT**

**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.8**

I hereby certify pursuant to 37 CFR §1.8 that this correspondence is being transmitted via EFS to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.

7/26/07  
Date

  
Signature

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In Re Application of:

CHIEN

Serial No.: 09/920,879

Filing Date: August 2, 2001

Title: IMMUNOASSAYS FOR ANTI-HCV  
ANTIBODIES USING ANTIGENS WITH  
CONFORMATIONAL EPITOPES

Examiner: Humphrey, L.

Group Art Unit: 1648

Confirmation No.: 5787

**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Final Office Action mailed May 15, 2007 with a shortened statutory period of three months for response. Since this response is submitted within three months of the date of mailing it is believed that no fees are due. Applicants request reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application in view of the following amendments and remarks.

**Amendments to the claims** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 5 of this paper.